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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /080 W
----------043283 260953Z /17
O 260902Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 562
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6614

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG, PEPR, US, AO
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH GOZ ON ANGOLA

REF: A) USUN NEW YORK 2649; B) KINSHASA 6603; C) KINSHASA 6458

1. I WISH TO STRESS AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE GOZ ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ANGOLANS CONCERNING ANGOLAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS. DESPITE HIS PREVIOUS TOUGH TALK TO THE PRESS, THERE ARE MORE RECENT INDICATIONS THAT MOBUTU MIGHT BE AMENABLE TO NEW INITIATIVES LEADING TOWARD EVENTUAL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH LUANDA. MOBUTU'S JUNE 24 SPEECH,ANNOUNCING AN AMNESTY FOR ALL ZAIRIAN REFUGEES (INCLUDING THOSE IN ANGOLA) AND APROPOSING THAT THE UNHCR MONITOR THEIR SAFE RESETTLEMENT IN ZAIRE, COULD BE AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN THAT DIRECTION. THIS, TOGETHER WITH A PROMISE TO CRACK DOWN ON THE MILITARY'S ABUSE OF CIVILIANS (A MAJOR GRIEVANCE AMONG SHABANS), COMES IN THE WAKE OF -- AND NO DOUBT IN RESPONSE TO -- OUR STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO MOBUTU ON THESE ISSUES.

2. IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY JOB TO RUDGE MOBUTU ALONG TOWARD THE
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KIND OF POLITICAL SOLUTION WHICH THE SHABA SITUATION WILL EVENTUALLY REQUIRE. TO ACHIEVE HIS COOPERATION WE MUST RETAIN HIS CONFIDENCE. A NECESSARY ELEMENT FOR BOTH IS KEEPING HIM APPROPRIATELY INFORMED OF OUR OWN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, SUCH AS THE MCHENRY-JUNIOR TALKS IN LUANDA. I THEREFORE URGE THAT WE CONSULT WITH MBOTU ON THOSE TALKS ON A TIMELY BASIS.

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3. WHILE I CAN SEE SOME ADVANTAGES IN OUR CONSULTING WITH THE NIGERIANS, AS PROPOSED REF A, WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THE ADVERSE IMPACT THIS COULD HAVE ON MOBUTU'S ATTITUDES, PARTICULARLY IF HE PERCEIVES WE ARE GIVING PRIORITY TO OBASANJO IN PROVIDING A READ-OUT OF MATTERS WHICH BEAR IMMEDIATELY ON ZAIRE'S (BUT NOT NIGERIA'S) SEUCITY. IF AMBASSADOR MCHENRY DOES PLAN TO BRIEF THE GON, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST FOR HIM TO STOP HERE FIRST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA06614
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780264-0519
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780621/aaaaarzj.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d920ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 2649, 78 KINSHASA 6603, 78 KINSHASA 6458
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2212621
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATIONS WITH GOZ ON ANGOLA
TAGS: PEPR, CG, US, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d920ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014